

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 05014 160925Z

64

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-08 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 EA-07 MCT-01 /110 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9794

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C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN MO

SUBJECT: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 220772

1. EMBOFF HELD TWO SESSIONS WITH MFA'S CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, ABDELLAH BENKIRANE, SEPTEMBER 11 AND 13 TO COVER POINTS IN REFTEL AND OTHER MATTERS. WE FEEL THAT GOM WELCOMES THESE EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON TOPICS OF MUTUAL CONCERN, EVEN IF ITS POSITIONS ARE SELDOM TAKEN VERY FAR IN ADVANCE OF THE ACTUAL SESSION. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE THIS YEAR, WHEN MOROCCO'S VISIBILITY ON ALMOST ANY GIVEN ITEM WILL BE GREATLY AFFECTED BY WHETHER DEBATE ON THE ITEM FALLS BEFORE OR AFTER THE SAHARA DENOUEMENT (SEE RABAT 4993 NOTAL). EMBOFF DELIVERED AIDE MEMOIRE ON POINTS RAISED. BENKIRANE'S REACTIONS ARE REPORTED IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

2. SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE GOM WAS WELL AWARE THAT NEW ELEMENTS WERE AT WORK, AND HE CITED "NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS"

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 05014 160925Z

OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PAST M.E. EFFORTS IN EXPRESSING

THE HOPE THAT CURRENT EFFORTS WOULD BEAR FRUIT. AT THE SAME TIME, MANY "RADICAL" AFRICAN REGIMES HAD ALREADY SPOKEN OUT IN OPPOSITION TO THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS. MOROCCANS WERE NOT WITH THESE RADICALS. IT WANTED A SETTLEMENT IN THE AREA WITHOUT FIGHTING OR MORE BLOODSHED. WHEN EMBOFF NOTED THAT THE GOM HAD NEVER PRONOUNCED ITSELF PUBLICLY ON THIS QUESTION, HE REPLIED THAT IT COULD NOT. MOROCCO MUST REMAIN WITHIN THE MAINSTREAM OF THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY, OF WHICH IT WAS A PART.

3. ZIONISM/RACISM. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS WOULD BE AN ISSUE AGAIN. FONMIN LARAKI'S UNGA REMARKS ON ISRAEL HAD BEEN "LESS EXTREME" LAST YEAR. HIS PERSONAL VIEW WAS THAT IT WAS RIDICULOUS TO ASSOCIATE ZIONISM WITH APARTHEID, BUT MOROCCO WAS OBLIGED TO ADHERE TO POSITIONS ADOPTED BY THE ARAB LEAGUE.

4. CYPRUS. THE GOM WAS OF COURSE PARTIAL TO THE TURKS "ESPECIALLY SINCE LAST YEAR" (AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO TURKISH SUPPORT ON THE SAHARA) BUT HE TOOK NOTE OF THE U.S. POSITION, WHICH HE SAID APPEARED REASONABLE.

5. UNRWA FINANCING. MOROCCO HAD STEADILY INCREASED ITS FUNDING TO THIS ORGANIZATION, AND DESPITE CURRENT FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES HIS MINISTER HAD AGREED TO ANOTHER SMALL INCREASE TO SHOW GOM'S GOODWILL AND SUPPORT.

6. INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE. BENKIRANE SEIZED ON EMBOFF'S ALLUSION TO OTHERS' ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION, NOTING THAT MANY OTHER POWERS WERE ALSO PRESENT (HE MENTIONED CHINA AND THE USSR, WHOSE PRESENCE HE TERMED "MASSIVE"). THE POINT ON A HIGH SEAS LEGAL REGIME WAS MERELY NOTED WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS. MANY COUNTRIES INVOKED VAGUE CONCEPTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO SERVE THEIR OWN ENDS, AND ALGERIA'S INVOCATION OF "SAHARANS RIGHTS" WAS AN EXAMPLE. ALSO, MANY STATES RAISED THIS QUESTION WHEN IN TERMS OF THEIR OWN SOCIAL SYSTEMS THEY HAD NO BUSINESS DOING SO. MOROCCO WAS INTERESTED IN THIS SUBJECT WHEN DISCUSSIONS

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PAGE 03 RABAT 05014 160925Z

WERE SERIOUS. IN THIS CONNECTION, BENKIRANE INFORMED EMBOFF "UNOFFICIALLY" OF MOROCCO'S INTENTION TO PRESENT ITSELF AS A CANDIDATE FOR NEXT YEAR'S HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE.

8. INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. MOROCCO WAS PROFOUNDLY INTERESTED IN THIS SUBJECT, AND HAD ALWAYS BEEN. EVEN IN THE OLD DAYS WHEN MANY ARAB GOVERNMENTS LOOKED THE

OTHER WAY SO AS TO PERMIT THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE TO
PULBICIZE ITSELF THROUGH TERRORIST ACTS, THE GOM HAD
TAKEN A POSITION AGAINST THESE ACTS. EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT
MOROCCO'S INTENTIONS ON RATIFYING HAGUE AND MONTREAL
CONVENTIONS AND WAS TOLD THAT ONLY ADMINISTRATIVE DELAYS
WERE HOLDING UP GOM'S DECISION TO PROCEED WITH RATIFICATION
(SEE RABAT 5003 NOTAL).

9. UN BUDGET. BENKIRANE IS AN AUTHORITY ON THIS
SUBJECT, HAVING CHAIRED THE COMMITTEE WHICH LOOKED
INTO REVISING NATIONAL QUOTAS IN THE EARLY 70'S. HE
STATED THAT THE GOM WAS IN FAVOR OF SORTING OUT
PRIORITIES, BUT THAT PROJECTS UNDERWAY SHOULD BE
COMPLETED. MOROCCO HAD BUCKED THE TIDE OF THIRD
WORLD OPINION AT THE TIME BY ABSTAINING ON U.S.
PROPOSALS TO LOWER ITS CONTRIBUTION. THE GOM SUPPORTED
THE PRINCIPLE OF A BIENNIAL BUDGET AND WOULD ENDEAVOR
TO MAINTAIN THE BUDGET'S INTEGRITY INsofar AS POSSIBLE,
BUT IT ALSO INTENDED TO SUPPORT IN THE NEXT SESSION
PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS IN
ORDER TO MEET LEGITIMATE ADD-ONS.

10. OTHER SUBJECTS, INCLUDING THE SAHARA, WERE NOT
RAISED. ECOUN HAS DISCUSSED UNCTAD IV WITH CONCERNED
GOM OFFICIALS, AND WILL RAISE THE QUESTIONS OF UN
RESTRUCTURING AND EXTERNAL EVALUATION MECHANISM AT
EARLY OPPORTUNITY.

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